

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising administering an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject ~~in need thereof~~ to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy, wherein the subject administers the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of (1) 0.001-10 g per day, or (2) 0.001-20 g per 60 kg body weight in 1-3 divided doses daily, wherein the subject is a patient having a liver disease associated with hepatopathy, and wherein the liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 18. (Original): The method according to claim 17 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The method according to claim 18 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-

octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω9).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting from said culture.

Claims 22-23. (Canceled).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): A method of ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising providing a composition or a food or drink containing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject ~~in need thereof~~ to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy, wherein the subject is a patient having a liver disease associated with hepatopathy, and wherein the liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 25. (Original): The method according to claim 24 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 26. (Original): The method according to claim 25 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2  $\omega$ 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2  $\omega$ 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3  $\omega$ 9).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent  $\Delta$ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus Mortierella, genus Conidiobolus, genus Phythium, genus Phytophthora, genus Penicillium, genus Cladosporium, genus Mucor, genus Fusarium, genus Aspergillus, genus Rhodotorula, genus Entomophthora, genus Echinosporangium, or genus Saprolegnia and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claims 29-30. (Canceled).

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.

Claims 32-46. (Canceled).

Claim 47. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the subject ~~administers~~ is administered the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of 0.001-2 g per day.

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Page 5

Claim 48. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the subject ~~administers~~ is administered the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid in an amount of 0.1-2 g per 60 kg body weight in 1-3 divided doses daily.